MARVEL

29

LGY#194

CATES
ROSS
ABURTOV

VENOM

VENOM BEYOND

PART 4

DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. THE TWO WERE JOINED AND USED THEIR COMBINED LUST FOR VIOLENCE TO MAKE THEIR CITY SAFER AS THE LETHAL PROTECTOR...

VENOM

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VENOM BEYOND PART 4

AFTER ACCIDENTALLY TRAVELING THROUGH AN INTERDIMENSIONAL GATE WHILE FIGHTING WITH THE VILLAIN VIRUS, EDDIE BROCK AND HIS SON DYLAN FOUND THEMSELVES IN AN UNRECOGNIZABLE NEW YORK CITY RUN BY A MAN NAMED CODEX.

THIS UNFAMILIAR LANDSCAPE IS FILLED WITH A HIVE OF SYMBIOTES THAT REPLACED HUMANITY, SAVE FOR A FEW HUMAN REBEL SOLDIERS LED BY THIS UNIVERSE'S AGENT VENOM: EDDIE'S EX-WIFE, ANNIE WEYING!

ANNIE REVEALS TO EDDIE THAT IN THIS UNIVERSE, EDDIE DIED AND ANNIE BECAME VENOM. DURING THE REVEAL OF ANNIE'S TEAM OF AGENTS—INCLUDING PETER PARKER, WADE WILSON, ANDI BENTON AND CLETUS KASADY—THEY WERE ATTACKED BY A WAVE OF SYMBIOTES SENT BY CODEX; THEY NARROWLY ESCAPE THANKS TO AN EXPLOSION CAUSED BY AGENT DEADPOOL.

MEANWHILE, CODEX UNMASKED VIRUS, EXPOSING HIS IDENTITY AS MAC GARGAN—THE ORIGINAL SCORPION AND ONE-TIME HOST TO THE VENOM SYMBIOTE—WHO BLAMED EDDIE FOR PARALYZING HIS LEGS. CODEX PROVIDED MAC WITH A SYMBIOTE UNDER THE CONDITION HE MUST WORK FOR HIM; MAC GARGAN AGREED AND ONCE AGAIN BECAME THE SCORPION.

AFTER VENOM AND ANNIE'S TEAM REACH THEIR SAFE HOUSE—A LAB RUN BY THIS UNIVERSE'S REED RICHARDS—ANNIE REVEALED THAT CODEX IS THIS UNIVERSE'S DYLAN BROCK!

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A LONG TIME AGO...

"FINE, YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW WE GOT HERE?

"WELL, LET ME START AT THE BEGINNING...

--I MEAN, I ALWAYS KNEW OTTO WAS A NERD, BUT REALLY? "OPERATION: OCTOPI WALL STREET"?

I MEAN, SURE...THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT APPRECIATES THE PUN GAME, BUT DUDE... READ THE ROOM, RIGHT?

HEHE... YEAH...

YOU OKAY, ANNIE? YOU USUALLY FAKE LAUGH AT MY JOKES A LITTLE MORE CONVINCINGLY THAN--

I'M PREGNANT, PETE.

OH.
WOW.
ANNIE...
...THAT'S THE WORST JOKE I'VE HEARD ALL DAY. AND, OH MAN, IS THAT SAYING SOMETH--
I'M SERIOUS, PETE!
OW...
WAIT....YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS?
AFRAID SO.
WOW. I--I MEAN, CONGRATULATIONS? RIGHT? OR NO? IS THIS GOOD? ARE YOU.... GOOD?
PLEASE CALM DOWN. I'M FINE.
AM I DOING OKAY? I FEEL LIKE I'M MAKING THIS WEIRD. IS THIS WEIRD? AM I TALKING TOO--
RIGHT...
SO...WHO'S THE LUCKY GUY? ANYONE I KNOW, OR...
UM, WELL... THAT'S THE WEIRD PART. I...I DON'T REALLY....KNOW...
NO.
OH, WELL... THAT'S FINE. I MEAN, I'M A SCIENTIST. IF YOU WANTED WE COULD RUN A TEST AND--
NO. ACTUALLY, I DON'T THINK I WANT TO KNOW.

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YOU'RE KINDA THE TOUGHEST AND SCARIEST PERSON I'VE EVER MET, SO I'M NOT DOUBTING THAT YOU CAN HANDLE THIS, BUT...AS SOMEONE WHO WAS RAISED BY A SINGLE PARENT...IT'S...WELL, IT CAN BE HARD, YOU KNOW?

AND-- I GUESS, I DON'T KNOW, I GUESS I'M JUST SAYING IF YOU EVER NEED ANY HELP, I'M...ALWAYS AROUND...IF YOU NEED IT.

PETE...

...SHUT UP.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I WON'T BE A SINGLE MOM. I'M ***NEVER ALONE.***

DON'T WORRY.

WE'LL BE JUST FINE.

GOD, I HATE SYMBIOTE STUFF.

"YEARS PASSED...AND... YEAH, AT FIRST EVERYTHING **WAS** FINE.

HEY, BABY! MOMMY'S HOME!

PIZZA

"MY LITTLE DYLAN WAS JUST A SWEET LITTLE BOY...

AND GUESS WHAT? I STOPPED ON MY WAY HOME AND GOT YOU A LITTLE...

"BUT THEN...

SURPRISE...

"SOMETHING... STOLE HIM...

COMING...

YES...

THE LIGHT...IT HAS...

DYLAN...?

"I TRIED...I TRIED EVERYTHING TO GET HIM BACK. ANY SCIENCE OR MAGIC OR DEALS WITH ANY DEVIL I COULD FIND...

DYLAN! BABY! WHAT'S GOING ON? TALK TO ME! COME HERE, LET ME--

...IT HAS TO DIE.

"...BUT IN THE END...

AGHH!!!

IT HAS TO DIE.

"...WE LOST HIM.

"I LOST HIM.

"IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST.

"REED AND THE OTHERS TRIED TO HELP HIM...TO ***FREE*** HIM...

"BUT IT WAS TOO LATE...

"USING THE PIECE OF THE SYMBIOTE HE TOOK FROM ME, HE WAS ABLE TO SPAWN HUNDREDS OF THEM.

"AND THEN THOUSANDS. AND THEN...THERE WERE MORE OF ***THEM*** THAN US...

"IN THE BEGINNING, HE SEEMED TO BE BONDING TO THEM. WEARING THE SYMBIOTES LIKE YOU AND I.

"BUT AS THE WAR WAGED ON AND HIS POWERS GREW, HE BEGAN TO SHED THEM. TO REJECT THEM...

"TO CONTROL THEM IN A WAY THAT I DIDN'T THINK WAS POSSIBLE.

"DYLAN BECAME A ***LIVING HIVE-MIND.*** ABLE TO CONTROL THE SYMBIOTES EVEN IF HE WASN'T BONDED TO THEM...

"IT WAS LIKE...HE BECAME THEIR GOD...

"AND TOGETHER...THEY SPREAD ACROSS THE PLANET...SMOTHERING WHOLE CONTINENTS...AND LEAVING NOTHING IN HIS WAKE BUT DARKNESS AND THE PEOPLE HE HAD ASSIMILATED INTO HIS HIVE...

"NO ONE WAS PREPARED. NO ONE COULD STOP HIM.

"HE DESTROYED THE WORLD, EDDIE...

"MY SON KILLED THE WORLD."

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AND NOW WE'RE HERE.

ANNIE... I'M...SO--

I'M ASSUMING YOURS IS LIKE THAT TOO? YOUR...YOUR DYLAN?

I... I MEAN, NO... HE'S NOT...

EVIL? NOT WHAT I MEANT. AND THANKS FOR THE REMINDER.

DOES HE HAVE THE SAME POWERS? ABLE TO REMOTE PILOT THEM? ABLE TO SENSE THEM? HURT THEM, EVEN DESTROY THEM, WITH HIS MIND?

NO...

I MEAN, YES, HE CAN DO THOSE THINGS, BUT...HE'S NOT THE SAME.

MY DYLAN ISN'T ABLE TO BOND WITH SYMBIOTES ***AT ALL.*** HE'S NOT A DANGER TO YOU, ANNIE. I PROMISE. HE'S JUST A LITTLE--

DON'T TOUCH ME!

ANNIE, HEY, I'M--

I AM NOT YOUR ANNIE!

YOU ARE NOT MY EDDIE...

AND THAT... THAT THING YOU BROUGHT HERE IS NOT--

I CAN HEAR YOU.

IT'S OKAY...

I'M NOT A BABY. AND I'M NOT HIM... THE OTHER ONE.

I KNOW I'M NOT YOUR SON.

I KNOW I DON'T HAVE A MOM...

AND... THAT'S OKAY.

BUT PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID OF ME...

OH NO... DYLAN, I'M...

I...I'M SORRY...

ANNIE...

...I-- I CAN'T DO THIS...

ANNIE?

WADE?! OH, THANK--

YEAH, HEY, LISTEN...REAL QUICK?

PLIP

FLOP FLOP FLOP FLOP

YOU GUYS NEED TO GET THE @#$$% OUTTA HERE.

WHAT? WADE, WHAT ARE YOU--

SHUT UP AND GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE NOW! THEY TRACKED US! THEY SENT THIS--

DAMMIT!

ALL TEAMS, RED ALERT! WE HAVE INCO--

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RAGGHH!!!

WHERE IS HE?!

AGH! EVERYONE, GET TO--

THE CHILD!

GAH!

PETER!

MOVE!

WAIT, THOSE ARE ELECTRICAL CURRENTS! NO ONE CAN SURVIVE THAT AMOUNT OF ENERGY COURSING--

OH...

...WE'RE COUNTING ON IT!

Bwwwaaaaaahhhh

GET.

OFF.

OF.

MY.

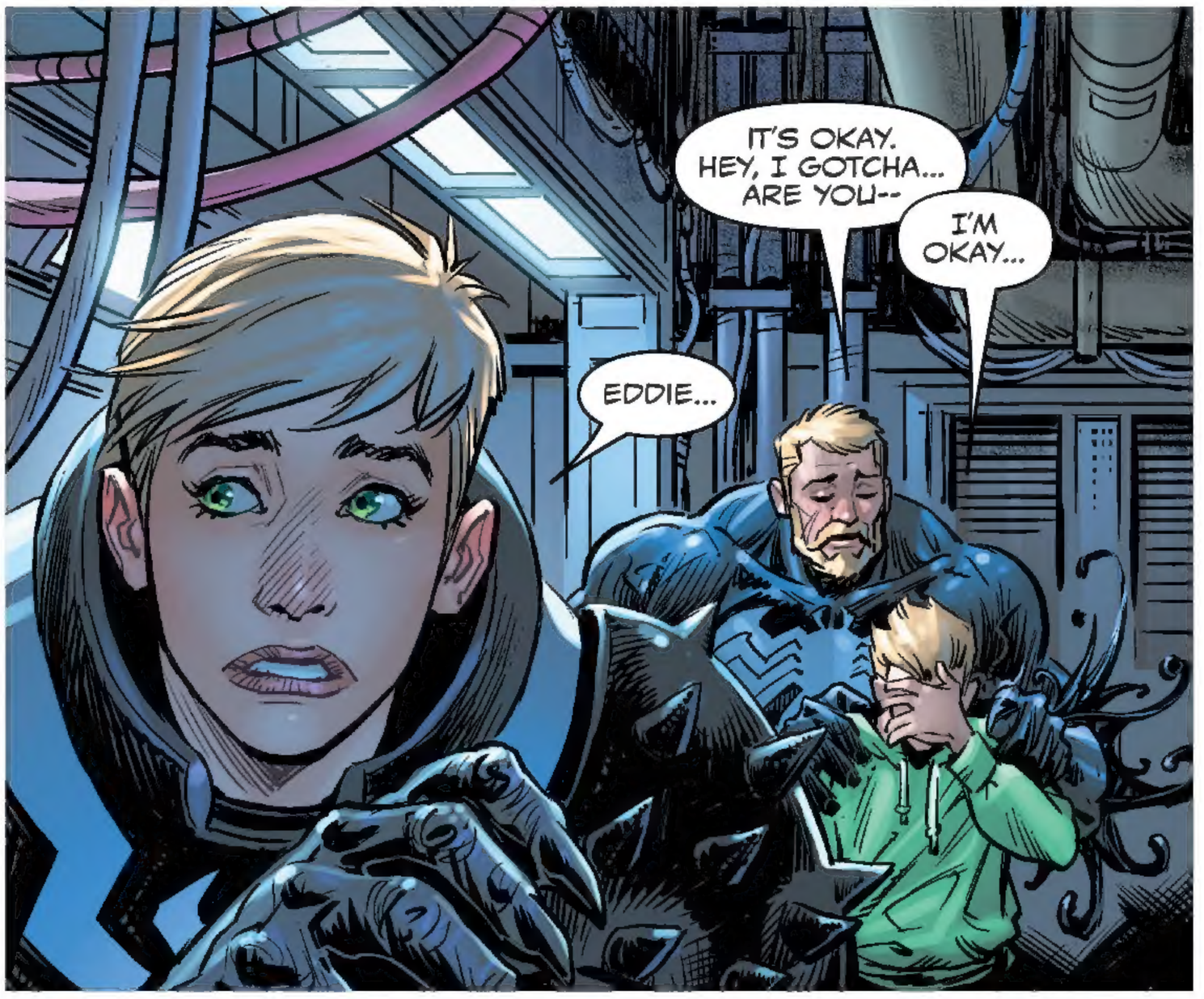
WIFE!

DYLAN!!!

NOW.

...NO...

BRRR


IT'S OKAY. HEY, I GOTCHA... ARE YOU--
I'M OKAY...
EDDIE...

...WHO IS THIS MAN?

MAC GARGAN.

THE SCORPION.
YOU... I'LL KILL YOU. I'LL NEVER--

OR IS IT VIRUS NOW? HUH?
THAT WAS YOU! MY OTHER CAN SENSE IT! THAT WAS YOU IN THAT RIDICULOUS SUIT!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT! YOU--

YOU PARALYZED ME!

...

...WHAT?

CARNAGE ALMOST RIPPED MY SPINE OUT, AND YOU JUST LEFT--

YOU WERE GOING TO LEAVE A CHILD TO DIE!!!

OR DID YOU FORGET THAT PART?

YOU JUST THREW ME AT HIM!

YOU... JUST...

YOU...YOU CAN'T WALK AWAY FROM THAT...

IT'S NOT FAIR...

NO.

NO. I CAN'T.

SO, I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU A DEAL.

W-WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT...

BECAUSE THAT SYMBIOTE MY SON JUST KILLED...

...YOU GOT IT FROM CODEX. WE CAN SMELL IT. WHICH MEANS YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS...

...SO NOW YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE US TO HIM.

CATES LR

TO BE CONTINUED...

#30 ON SALE NEXT!

HEY, VENOMANIACS! **VENOM BEYOND** IS ABOUT TO CONCLUDE NEXT ISSUE, BUT YOU'LL BARELY BE ABLE TO CATCH YOUR BREATH AS THE **KING IN BLACK** ARRIVES IN DECEMBER! LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE STORY SO FAR BY WRITING US AT **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM!** BE SURE TO MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT"!